

(Bulletin for Statehouse, Capitol Mall Employees October 29, 2001)

Department of Administration
Construction Update No. 12



Step 1: Tape marks joint needing repair.

Replacing Old Mortar On Statehouse Exterior Requires “Step by Step” Process by Workers

Masonry experts are continuing their methodical work on the north face of the East Wing as they replace old mortar in the joints between the Stonework on the Capitol's exterior. They are working from the cornice level (top of the wall) down.

In the **photos at left and below**, the initial steps in the joint repair process are highlighted which first involves identifying what joints need to be replaced (Step 1); a worker uses a cutting tool to slice a groove into the joint area to loosen the old mortar (Step 2); a chisel is then used to chip out the old mortar (Step 3); using a compressor, the worker blows out remaining pieces of the mortar and dust (Step 4); and finally, the depth of the joint where the old mortar was removed is evaluated and measured in preparation for the placement of the new mortar (Step 5).

Next week's **Renewal News** issue will cover the preparations required for the subsequent placement of the new mortar compound into the joints of the stonework. Placement of the new mortar, (grout) and sealant can only be done during the warm part of the day when the temperature is at least 40 degrees and rising.

On Monday morning (Oct. 29), crews working on the East Step Replacement project applied a primer/sealant for waterproofing a protective cover or membrane that was placed over portions of the newly poured concrete. As a result, Statehouse employees reported odors from this phase of the work, which as of 1 p.m., Monday was completed with the smell dissipating rapidly. When this particular procedure is repeated as part of the West Steps Replacement Project, the work will be done on a Saturday to minimize, as much as possible, any disruption and or/discomfort to Statehouse tenants.



Step 2: Cutting a groove in the old mortar.



Step 3: Chiseling away the Mortar from joint area.



Step 4: Using a compressor, the worker blows out old dust.



Step. 5: Depth of joint evaluated.

Please note: The intent of **Renewal News** is to provide readers the most current and complete information as possible regarding construction activities during the Capitol Restoration project. However, construction schedules are always subject to change, based upon weather conditions, transport and acquisition of support equipment and personnel, or other unforeseen circumstances. Inquiries, comments on the Restoration effort can be sent to **Diane**

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